

6 March 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (ADMINISTRATION)

SUBJECT: "Washington Confidential"

1. Anent the allegation of Commies in CIA on page 100 of "Washington Confidential", the following pertains to possible legal proceedings. They are based on discussions with the Department of Justice and Postal authorities.

a. No sort of libel suit or injunction appears to be readily available, although further research can be done into the somewhat remote possibilities if desired.

b. It appears that the Post Office Department cannot take action through their control of mails in these particular circumstances.

c. On official request, the FBI would probably send representatives to the publishers requesting that they back up their charges in view of the requirements of the President's loyalty program.

d. A public hearing might be obtained if we could interest a Senatorial committee in subpoenaing the publishers to substantiate their charges.

e. We could call the publishers to indicate that we intended to take whatever legal measures were available in an effort to eliminate this particular allegation from future editions.

2. Please indicate whether you wish us to take action on any of the above possibilities.

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LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON  
General Counsel

Excerpt from p. 100 of "Washington Confidential", published by Crown Publisher, New York City:

"We are hopeful these things will come to an end but do not expect too much. That is because we know the CIA--Central Intelligence Agency--is loaded with Commies at the lower level, with some seeping right up into the upper brackets."

The above is taken from a section entitled, "The Little Red Herrings."

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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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